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ABSTRACT

A correlational analysis was conducted between scores obtained on the Is of Identity Test (IOI) and the Attitude Toward Disabled Persons Scale (ATDP) by 105 graduate and undergraduate university students enrolled in an introductory special education course. The IOI is a 100 item scale designed to measure social adjustment, while the ATDP measures acceptance or rejection of the disabled and nondisabled. A significant correlation was found between the two sets of scores. It was suggested that there might be a relationship between high levels of social adjustment and acceptance of the disabled. Data were thought to support the assumption that there is a close relationship between symbolic models and reality. (GW)

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE IS OF IDENTITY AND ATTITUDE TOWARD DISABLED PERSONS SCALES

by

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Korzybski (1921) stated that the aim of analysis is to give us just conceptions, correct definitions, and true propositions, and that such analysis is slow, progressive, and endless. He was a strong advocate of the notion that symbols govern our behavior and are reflected in how we feel, think, and act. Furthermore, our symbolic models match the structure of reality, that is the closer in relationship our models and reality, the more sanely we react.

Weiss (1956) developed the Is of Identity Test (IOI) to measure social adjustment, but to a great degree, to test the notion put forth by Korzybski that there is a strong relationship between the structure of the language used by an individual and the real world to which adjustment is made. Failure to cope with the factor of dissimilarity between language and the real world leads one to misevaluations and consequent maladjustment.

In a recent study, Yamamoto and Wiersma (1967) utilized four instruments to explore the relationship between student teachers' attitudes toward the physically handicapped and the mentally ill and towards themselves and reality in general. Two of the tests used were the Is of Identity and the Attitude Toward Disabled Persons Scale (ATDP). The ATDP being used to measure attitudes of acceptance or rejection of handicapped individuals. The interesting thing about their study was that they reported a very low and insignificant correlation (r - .02) between the ATDP and the IOI.

The purpose of this study was to conduct a correlational analysis between the scores obtained on the IOI and the ATDP scales. A simple directional hypotheses is that there would be a very low and statistically insignificant correlation. Such directional trend has been indicated by the results of the Yamamoto and Wiersma (1967) study. This is the only known study to have used both instruments of interest.

METHOD

SUBJECTS: The subjects used in this study were 105 graduate and undergraduate university students in three sections or classes titled, AN INTRODUCTION TO EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN, which is an introductory survey course in special education. The sex ratio was about 3 to 1 in favor of the females. The median age for the group was 24 years, with a range of 20-45 tears for males and a range of 20-51 years for the female subjects.

Procedure: The ATDP was administered first, with both tests given as a group test by the junior author. It required about 30 minutes to give both instruments per class. This procedure was uniform with all three classes utilized in the sample.

Instruments: IOI The Is of Identity Test is a 100-item, true, false,or undecided response scale to measure social adjustment. The norm for the average adjusted person falls between 40 and 60, with higher scores indicating the more socially adjusted the person; conversely, the reverse in scores below 40 that might indicate the greater probability of social maladjustment.

ATDP: The ATDP Form-O as modified by Lazar, Gensley, and Orpet (1971) was used in this study. This is a 20-item Likert scale developed at the Human Resource Center in New York to measure the acceptance and/or rejection of the disabled and non-disabled. The possible range of scores is 0 to 120, the higher score indicationg greater acceptance wheras the lower score indicating rejection. Detailed discussion of this scale and its recommended usage in research can be found in the book by Shaw and Wright (1967).

Statistical Treatment of Data:

A rank correlation was computed between the IOI and ATDP scores for 105 subjects using a Wang calculator. The means and standard deviations are provided in Table 1. An examination of Table 1 will reveal that a statistically significant correlation coefficient at the .001 level was obtained.

Table 1

Rank Correlation Between IOI and ATDP

scale	N	$\bar{X}$	s.d	df	r	significance
ATDP	105	81.20	14.35	104	.343	.001
IOI	105	78.71	14.25			

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In light of the significant correlation in this study, the initial, directional hypotheses that no statistically significant correlation would be found is rejected. The results of this study support

the notion that there is a statistically significant relationship between the IOI and ATDP Form O as modified. This differs with the findings of the Yamamoto and Wiersma study (1967).

There might be several reasons to explain this conflict in findings. First, it should be noted that a modified Form-O of ATDP was used in this study, whereas, Form-B of the ATDP which is a later version with 30 items was used by Yamamoto and Wiersma. It is interesting to note that Yuker, Block, and Younng (1966) report that the stability coefficients for Form-O range from + .66 to + .89 and for the Form-B a range from + .71 to + .83. Yet, another reason might be in the very nature of the student samples used. That is one does not really know how much previous experiences and training the groups might have had with handicapped individuals.

Table 2

IOI Mean Comparison

Study	N	$\bar{X}$	s.d.	Remarks
Yamamoto and Wiersma	96	76.94	20.09	Very well adjusted
Lazar and Ernandes	105	78.71	14.25	Very well adjusted

A study of Table 2. will indicate an interesting finding. Both groups in the two studies had an average mean well above the normal range of adjustment according to the norms indicated by Weiss. It can be concluded that both sample groups were very well adjusted as groups.

CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY

The findings of this study support the notion that there is a statistically significant relationship between the IOI and ATDP scales. Furthermore, one might conclude that there is a relationship between well adjusted individuals and their greater acceptance of the disabled. Finally, this study tends to support the assumption by Korzybski and studied by Weiss that there is a close relationship between our symbolic models and reality.

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